

# Summer's wreath 2010

A celebration of  
William Butler Yeats

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*The*  
**MERRION**  
DUBLIN

**National Library of Ireland**  
June 2nd - 30th, 2010  
Admission free

THE 100th BIRTHDAY OF  
WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS  
**YEATS**

# Hello and welcome to our June 2010 celebration of William Butler Yeats

William Butler Yeats was born in summer 1865 into one of Ireland's great artistic families. He went on to become one of the greatest poets of the 20th century, created works that are universally known and loved, and exerted a profound influence on world literature. He was passionately interested in Ireland, folklore, theatre and politics and was one of the most significant influences on the formation of an Irish cultural identity.

William Butler Yeats's creativity and legacy is celebrated in **Summer's Wreath** - a month-long public programme of events in conjunction with the Library's current exhibition *Yeats: the Life & Works of William Butler Yeats*. In a myriad of events and happenings that will include readings, reflections, lectures, recitals and music, leading names reflect on his life and his poetry.

The light of evening, Lissadell,  
Great windows open to the south,  
Two girls in silk kimonos, both  
Beautiful, one a gazelle.

## **The Merrion Cellar Restaurant**

### **Two Course Pre Summer's Wreath Supper**

€25 per person to include coffee. Offer available throughout the 'Summer's Wreath' programme, subject to availability.

For more information or to make a reservation contact The Cellar Restaurant on 01 6030630.

# Readings & Reflections

Each Day: 1pm / Duration: 30 Minutes / No Booking Required

I meditate upon a swallow's flight,  
 Upon an aged woman and her house,  
 A sycamore and lime tree lost in night  
 Although that western cloud is luminous.



## David Kelly, actor

Friday, June 4th, 2010

Born in Dublin in 1929, David Kelly has spent some 57 years on stage, playing in Dublin, London, Paris, Berlin and New York. His performances include the World Premiere of Brendan Behan's *The Quare Fella*, the first performance of Samuel Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape*, European and Scandinavian tours of Shaw plays, and Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* (London) among others. His television work includes BBC Shakespeare Series, *Fawlty Towers*, and *Strumpet City* and film work: *Ulysses*, *Into The West*, *Charlie And The Chocolate Factory* and *Beckett On Film*. Awards include Nomination for Best Supporting Actor with Ed Harris and Robert Duvall by the Screen Actor's Guild, Irish Film and Television Awards 2004 Special Lifetime Award and Irish Theatre Award Lifetime Achievement Statuette.

## Polly Devlin, writer

Tuesday, June 8th, 2010

Polly Devlin, author, journalist, broadcaster, film-maker, art critic and conservationist, has had a remarkable career, taking her far from her rural roots in Co. Tyrone to the sophisticated world of Vogue in London, New York and Paris. In 1994 she was awarded an OBE for services to literature. In addition to her three acclaimed books, *All Of Us There*, *The Far Side of the Lough* and *Dora: or The Shifts of the Heart*, Polly Devlin is also the author of the *Vogue Book of Fashion Photography*, a *Guide Book to Dublin* and a book of essays, *Only Sometimes Looking Sideways*. She has been a Judge of the Booker Prize in England and in Ireland a judge on the Irish Times Aer Lingus Literary Award.

### Mary O'Donnell, writer

Thursday, June 10th, 2010

Mary O'Donnell has worked as the Sunday Tribune's drama critic and has presented and scripted three series of poetry programmes for RTÉ Radio. She has a particular interest in poetry in translation and has researched, scripted and presented the RTÉ Radio programme *Crossing the Lines*, focusing on European poetry. A member of Aosdána, Mary has served as an external representative for arts and culture on the Governing Authority of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. She currently teaches creative writing and is poetry mentor with Carlow University Pittsburgh (PA).

### Mary O'Rourke T.D., politician

Tuesday, June 15th, 2010

From Athlone, Co. Westmeath and formerly a secondary school teacher, Mary O'Rourke was first elected to Dáil Éireann in November 1982 and is currently Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on the Constitutional Amendment on Children. During her career in politics, she has served as Minister for Public Enterprise and Transport 1997-2002; Minister of State for Labour Affairs 1993-94; Minister of State for Trade and Marketing 1992-93; Minister for Health 1991-92 and Minister for Education 1987-91. She was appointed Leader of Seanad Éireann 1997 – 2002. She is sister of the late Brian Lenihan, Dáil Deputy and Minister and aunt of Ministers Brian and Conor Lenihan.

### Brian Keenan, writer

Friday, June 18th, 2010

In 1986, when teaching in Beirut, Brian Keenan became headline news when he was captured and held hostage for the next four and a half years. Following his release he wrote the bestselling account of his imprisonment, *An Evil Cradling*, which won the Irish Times Irish Literature Prize for Non-Fiction, the Christopher Ewart-Biggs Memorial Prize and the Time-Life P.E.N. Award. His second book, *Between Extremes*, which he co-wrote with fellow hostage John McCarthy, was also a best seller. His other books include *Four Quarters of Light*, a fascinating account of a journey through Artic Alaska, and *Turlough* a novel based on the life of the Irish harpist, composer and singer Turlough O'Carolan. His memoir about his early life in Belfast *I'll Tell Me Ma* was published last year.

### Declan Lynch, writer

Tuesday, June 22nd, 2010

From Athlone, Co. Westmeath, Declan Lynch began his writing career at the age of seventeen with Ireland's rock'n'roll magazine Hot Press. He now writes for the Sunday Independent. He is the author of the acclaimed novel *The Rooms*, and of several books of non-fiction including *Ireland On Three Million Pounds A Day*; *Free Money - The Gambler's Quest*; and *Days of Heaven - Italia 90 and the Charlton Years*. His play *Massive Damages* was produced by the Passion Machine at the 1997 Dublin Theatre Festival.

**Brian Fallon, writer and critic**

Friday, June 25th, 2010

Born in Cootehill, Co. Cavan, Brian Fallon is the second son of the Irish poet Padraic Fallon (1905 – 1974). He is one of Ireland's foremost art critics and was chief art critic of *The Irish Times* for 35 years and its literary editor for 11 years. He was Chairman of the Arts Council, founder board member of the Irish Museum of Modern Art and recipient of a RHA Gold Medal for his outstanding contribution to the arts in Ireland. Brian Fallon has edited his father's poetry collection *Poems and Versions*.

**Eileen Dunne, broadcaster**

Monday, June 28th, 2010

A native of Dublin, Eileen Dunne is an Irish newscaster and radio presenter. She currently presents the RTÉ Nine O'Clock News and *Sunday Melodies* on RTÉ Lyric FM.

**Annie West, illustrator**

Tuesday, June 29th, 2010

Based in Sligo, Annie West is a highly regarded illustrator. Her detailed ink and line drawings illustrate figures from history, literature and science with mischief in mind. In addition to over a dozen children's books published both in Ireland, the UK and the United States, she has recently completed work on a series of illustrations for Children's BBC.

## Special Screening: Professor Helen Vendler on Yeats


Wednesday, June 9th, 2010

6 – 8pm (please note this will be a two hour event)

The National Library of Ireland is delighted to have this opportunity to host a special one-off screening of Professor Helen Vendler's lecture on Yeats's "Vacillation" which was originally delivered as part of a master class at Harvard University Humanities Center (October 2008).

Helen Vendler is the A. Kingsley Porter University Professor at Harvard, where she received her Ph.D. in English and American literature. She has written books on Yeats, Herbert, Keats, Stevens, Shakespeare, and Seamus Heaney, all published by Harvard University Press. She holds twenty-five honorary doctorate degrees and is a frequent reviewer of contemporary poetry in such journals as *The New York Times Book Review*, *The New York Review of Books*, and *The New Republic*.



A person is walking on a beach, looking down. The background shows waves and a bird in flight. The entire image has a green tint.

Dance there upon the shore;  
What need have you to care  
For wind or water's roar?

## Anjelica Huston on Yeats

in conversation with broadcaster John Kelly

Wednesday, June 2nd at 7.30pm / Places Limited /  
Booking Essential

An award-winning actress and director, Anjelica Huston continues her renowned family's legacy in film, which began with her grandfather, Walter Huston and her father, John Huston. Throughout her career, Anjelica has received multiple Oscar, Golden Globe, BAFTA and Emmy nominations for her body of work and recently received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Anjelica won an Academy Award for Best Supporting actress for her portrayal of 'Maerose Prizzi' in *Prizzi's Honor* making the Huston family the first to include three generations of Oscar winners. Huston also won a Golden Globe Award for her role in HBO's original movie *Iron Jawed Angels*. Anjelica is currently filming David Frankel's *The Big Year* and will next be seen in Jonathan Levine's Untitled Seth Rogen Comedy. Additional film credits include memorable turns in Frances Ford Coppola's *Gardens of Stone*, Woody Allen's *Manhattan Murder Mystery* and *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, Paul Mazursky's *Enemies: A Love Story*, Nic Roeg's *The Witches*, Stephen Frears' *The Grifters*, Barry Sonnenfeld's *Addams Family* and *Addams Family Values*, Mira Nair's *The Perez Family*, Sean Penn's *The Crossing Guard*, Vincent Gallo's *Buffalo '66*, Andy Tennant's *Ever After*, Wes Anderson's *The Darjeeling Limited*, *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* and *The Royal Tenenbaums* and Clark Gregg's *Choke*. Anjelica collaborated with her father on his final film, *The Dead*. Her directorial debut was an unflinching adaptation of Dorothy Allison's best-selling memoir, *Bastard Out Of Carolina*, which garnered Huston critical acclaim. Huston currently serves on the Board of Directors at the National University of Ireland Galway's John Huston School of Film and Digital Media.

Bookings: 01 603 0277 / yeats @nli.ie

# From Ballads to Byzantium with Abbot Mark Patrick Hederman & Nóirín Ní Riain

Tuesday, June 15th, 2010 at 7.30pm / Places Limited /  
Booking Essential

Mark Patrick Hederman OSB, a native of Co. Limerick has been a member of the Benedictine community for forty-five years and in 2008 was elected Abbot of Glenstal Abbey in Limerick. A former headmaster of Glenstal Abbey School, he is author of a number of books including *The Haunted Inkwell*, *Kissing in the Dark*, *Walkabout - Life as Holy Spirit* and *Symbolism* which contains reflections on WB Yeats. Having studied in Paris under the tutelage of the famous philosopher Emmanuel Levinas, he went on to lecture in philosophy and literature in Ireland, the US and Nigeria. He was founding editor of the cultural journal, *The Crane Bag*. His most recent book *Underground Cathedrals* was published by Columba Press this year.

Nóirín Ní Riain is an internationally acclaimed spiritual singer, a theologian and musicologist. She was awarded the first ever Doctorate in Theology from the University of Limerick in 2003 which is to be published shortly by The Mellen Press, USA. Her most recent book is an autobiography entitled *Listen with the Ear of the Heart*.

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# Celtic Poetry and Song with Cerys Matthews

Monday, June 21st at 7.30pm / Places Limited /  
Booking Essential

In this unique event, Cerys Matthews, former lead singer with the Welsh rock band Catatonia, will share her love for the magic found in Celtic poetry and song including the poetry of WB Yeats.

Having hosted her solo evening on the poet Dylan Thomas at the Dylan Thomas Centre in Swansea she went on to release the album *Don't Look Down* in 2009 to critical acclaim. Her new album TIR will be released on Rainbow City Records in June. With TIR, Cerys publishes photos from the 1880s to 1940s together with a mixture of songs, some Victorian, some hymns, some obscure, some traditional and some classics of iconic stature including *Bread of Heaven*, *Sosban Fach* and *Myfanwy* and presents them with a simplicity and tender appreciation for their historical significance.

Her radio and television work includes radio shows on BBC Radio 6, writing and presenting a prime-time BBC2 documentary on Celtic poets, a documentary on Dorothy Squires, presenting the BBC *Children In Need* show from Cardiff, documentaries on the history of the BBC's legendary Maida Vale Studios and Stax, recording artists including Otis Redding for BBC Radio 2. As well as completing the formation of her own TV and Radio production company, Rainbow City, Cerys is about to embark on a trip to record a documentary on women blues singers for BBC Radio 4.

Bookings: 01 603 0277 / yeats @nli.ie

# Professor Germaine Greer Yeats and Women: Desire and Dread

Wednesday, June 23rd, 2010 at 7.30pm / Places Limited /  
Booking Essential

The academic and broadcaster Germaine Greer is widely considered one of the most influential commentators on twenty first century life. A former Professor of English at Warwick, Germaine Greer was born in Melbourne and educated in Australia and at Cambridge University. Her first book, *The Female Eunuch* (1969), took the world by storm and remains one of the most influential texts of the feminist movement. Germaine Greer has had a distinguished academic career in Britain and the USA. She makes regular appearances in print and other media as a broadcaster, journalist, columnist and reviewer. Since 1988 she has been Director (and financier) of Stump Cross Books, a publishing house specialising in lesser-known works by early women writers.

Bookings: 01 603 0277 / yeats @nli.ie

# Yeats to Music with jazz vocalist Christine Tobin

Phil Robson, *guitar* and Liam Noble, *piano*

Monday, June 28th, 2010 at 7.30pm / Places Limited /  
Booking Essential

Irish born singer and songwriter Christine Tobin has established herself as one of the most gifted and adventurous musicians working in the UK. She has been part of the London jazz and improvising scene since the second half of the 1980s and has been influenced by a diverse range of singers and writers including Betty Carter, Bessie Smith, Leonard Cohen, and poets WB Yeats, Paul Muldoon and Eva Salzman. She has established a reputation as a unique presence on the jazz scene with original songs, style and interpretative or original lyrics. Awarded Best Vocalist Award at the BBC Jazz Awards 2008 her sound is rich, authentic and deeply expressive and was described by the Guardian as "Tobin's 24 carat voice" while praising her both for the poetry of her compositions and her golden voice. Much of her repertoire is self-penned and Tobin has received many accolades for her skills as a writer and arranger. Her versatility and musical integrity has ensured that she is a much in demand guest with other bands. She has been invited to record and work with a list that includes Billy Childs, BBC Big Band, Mike Gibbs, Nigel Kennedy, Billy Hart, Julian Arguelles, Tim Garland, Gary Husband, Hans Koller and a performance of a Bessie Smith song in the Mike Figgis directed film, *Red, White & Blues*, produced by Martin Scorsese.

Bookings: 01 603 0277 / yeats @nli.ie



# Gavin Friday on Yeats

with Martin Hayes, *fiddle* and Dennis Cahill,  
*guitar*

Wednesday, June 30th, 2010 at 8.00pm / Places Limited /  
Booking Essential

Gavin Friday is a prolific vocalist, artist and composer. Born in Dublin, Ireland's most avant-garde chanteur founded the legendary Virgin Prunes in 1977. The band's uncompromising body of work ensured a dedicated fan base in Ireland, the U.K. and mainland Europe in particular. His film work includes the songs written with Bono for *In the Name of the Father* and film scores for *The Boxer*, *Disco Pigs* and *In America*. A consummate live performer, Friday mesmerises his audiences, slipping into the many different characters that inhabit his songs. In 2001, he created *Ich Liebe Dich*, a twisted and seductive musical theatre tribute to the German composer Kurt Weill and in 2002 Friday and Maurice Seezer tackled Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, recording their own arrangement of the children's classic with their ensemble. The acclaimed director Neil Jordan cast Gavin in the 2005 movie *Breakfast on Pluto*. He has participated in the Shakespeare Sonnet Project, jointly commissioned by Opera North Projects and the Royal Shakespeare Company. Curated by the English composer Gavin Bryars, Gavin performed his take on *Sonnet 40* live and narrated the eight sonnets that make up Bryars' 40-minute composition *Nothing Like the Sun*. Gavin Friday and his writing partner Herb Macken composed the music and main theme *Dreamland* for Patrick McCabe's play *The Revenant* and also teamed up with members of Ireland's Crash Ensemble to narrate composer Ian Wilson's *Handsomest Drowned Man in the World* in Dublin and Brighton. He is currently working on his fourth solo album.

Bookings: 01 603 0277 / yeats @nli.ie

Upon the brimming water among the stones  
Are nine-and-fifty swans.



# One Day Immersion Course

Suitable for new and returning participants

## Yeats and the Poetry of Love

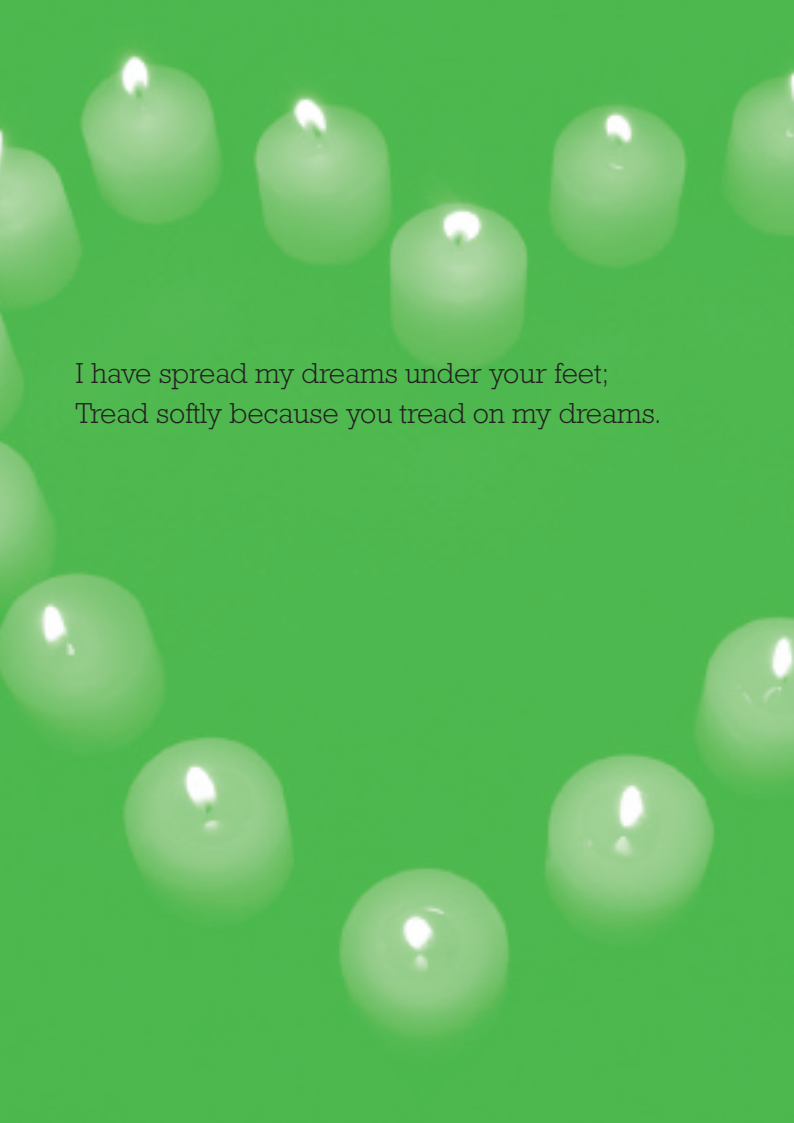
Monday, June 14th, 2010 / 9.15am - 5.30pm with lunch break /  
Hand-Outs will be provided / Places Limited /  
Booking Essential / Admission Free

Designed for the interested amateur and lovers of poetry and literature in general, our One Day Immersion course this year will explore how Yeats's poetry is saturated with the emotion of love: unrequited love, failed love, platonic love, conjugal love and paternal love. Beginning with an overview of Yeats's biography and times, over the course of a full day approximately twenty poems will be examined, all of them expressing Yeats's love for Maud and Iseult Gonne; Olivia Shakespear; Georgie Hyde-Lees; Lady Gregory; Eva Gore-Booth; Constance Gore-Booth Markiewicz and Yeats's daughter, Anne.

Individual poems to be covered will range from the popular to some of his longer and more challenging poems, including *A Prayer for my Daughter*, *Among School Children*, *The Circus Animals' Desertion* and *A Bronze Head*. The course will be delivered by means of an extended illustrated lecture, with lunch and coffee breaks, and interaction from participants will be encouraged as much as possible.

Course Tutor: Gerard Dineen (B.A., M.Phil., H.Dip.Ed., A.V.C.M.) recently submitted a doctoral thesis on the Irish writer George A. Birmingham and is soon to graduate from Trinity College Dublin. He has a particular interest in the literature of Edwardian Ireland, as well as the work of Shakespeare, Joyce, Wilde and especially Yeats. He has been teaching courses on W.B. Yeats in the National Library for the last number of years and has been teaching for Adult Education in University College Dublin since 2003. He has also taught in Trinity College, Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology and the Institute of Public Administration.

Bookings: 01 603 0277 / yeats @nli.ie



I have spread my dreams under your feet;  
Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.